

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Fall 2002 Number 7

IN THIS ISSUE:

Updates from California
Updates from Hawaii
National News of Interest
Upcoming Conferences and Events

*Don't forget to
send your
updates for the
Winter 2002
newsletter!*

UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

California EMS News

The EMS Authority recently applied for \$2.1 million for the Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program to provide AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and training to eligible rural areas of the state; final awards will be announced at the end of September.

The Layperson AED regulations are in the final phases of the administrative review process, and it is hoped they will be released and ready to implement by early 2003.

The EMS Authority is issuing a [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) to select an entity to operate a unified delivery system for poison control services in California. The application due date is December 6, 2002. Find out more at www.emsa.ca.gov.

On July 19, 2002, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the availability of \$2 million in grants to help local officials develop volunteer Medical Reserve Corps units to strengthen local communities' capacity to respond to an emergency and to strengthen the local public health infrastructure. For details, visit www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/mrc.

The final Older Adults Traffic Safety Task Force Report is now available online at www.eldersafety.org/oats/finalrpt.pdf. The task force was also recently highlighted in the first issue of the UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center Newsletter. To view the article, visit www.tsc.berkeley.edu/Newsletter/Aug02/caltaskforce.html.

The following grants were recently awarded by the EMS Authority to local EMS agencies in California through HHS Prevention 2010 block grant funds:

- ? Senior Injury Prevention Program (year two) — Alameda County EMS Agency, to reduce the numbers of injuries, particularly falls, among senior citizens in that county while raising awareness about senior injuries as a significant and preventable health problem.
- ? National Fire Service's Risk Watch injury prevention training program — Coastal Valleys EMS Agency (covers Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino Counties), to reduce bicycle, pedestrian, fire, and other types of injuries among the third and fourth graders in a minimum of ten schools in those counties.

- ? Medication Education for Drug Safety (MEDS) program — Contra Costa County EMS Agency, to reduce the numbers of drug/drug and drug/food interaction illnesses and injuries among older adult residents of that county.
- ? Toolkit for Elderly Suicide Prevention project — San Diego County EMS Agency, which will provide a resource for the 32 statewide local EMS agencies and their many EMS providers to recognize and intervene to help potentially suicidal patients.

UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center Newsletter

Prevention Institute recently worked with the University of California Berkeley Traffic Safety Center (TSC) in launching the first issue of the TSC Newsletter, an online publication created to disseminate important information on traffic safety topics to community organizations, businesses, researchers, government agencies, and individuals with an interest in transportation and traffic safety. The first issue focuses on safe mobility for an aging population and features articles on local, statewide, and national efforts to understand and improve transportation for seniors. The next issue, due for release in late November, will highlight issues and trends related to occupant protection. To view the newsletter, visit www.tsc.berkeley.edu/Newsletter/Aug02/frontpage.html.

Surface Transportation Policy Project/California Walks Press Release

The Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) and California Walks jointly issued a press release (below) on August 13, 2002. A full copy of the California pedestrian safety report is available online at www.transact.org/ca/ped_safety_report_2002.htm. Questions and comments can be directed to: James Corless, STPP, (415) 290-5457; Kristi Kimball, STPP, (415) 956-7835; and Zac Wald, California Walks, (510) 682-5605.

Pedestrian Deaths Increase in California: New Study Ranks Most Dangerous Places Statewide
 Study Finds Good News Too: Since 1997 More Than a Dozen Local Citizen Groups Have Formed to Address Problem; State Legislature Has Approved Four Related Laws
 August 13, 2002

A new report released today finds that pedestrian deaths in California increased by five percent — from 689 fatalities to 721 — from 2000 to 2001. The survey ranks Solano, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin counties as the state's five most dangerous. Cities that rank high on the survey's "Pedestrian Danger Index" include Vallejo, Modesto, Stockton, Long Beach, Richmond, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Bakersfield; San Francisco tops the charts for the highest incident rate as well as the highest percentage of all traffic fatalities that are pedestrians.

"Pedestrian Safety in California: Five Years of Progress and Pitfalls" co-released today by the nonprofit Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) and the newly formed California Walks, a pedestrian advocacy coalition of 14 local groups, says that regions characterized by rapid growth — especially those in the booming Central Valley and Southern California — are among the most dangerous places for pedestrians. The report also finds that Latinos and African Americans are most at risk from pedestrian-vehicle collisions, in numbers that are disproportionate to their share of the overall state population.

“Crossing the street in California shouldn’t be a matter of life and death,” said James Corless, California Director for the Surface Transportation Policy Project. “As California’s population gets increasingly diverse, safer streets and more walkable communities will become increasingly important for everyone.”

“As local officials decide how to spend their existing transportation money, pedestrians should get a fair share,” explained Zac Wald of California Walks. “Our top priority should be making our streets safer for everyone.”

The report also points to dozens of towns and cities around the state that have begun implementing newer pedestrian safety measures to reduce fatalities and injuries, often in conjunction with urban and suburban revitalization efforts. The report praises over a dozen innovative efforts to improve pedestrian safety at the local level in California — all which have happened in the last five years — including a new citywide pedestrian safety program in Oakland, traffic calming programs in San Jose and Sacramento, conversion of one way streets back into two way streets in San Jose (slowing traffic and providing a more business and pedestrian-friendly environment), an innovative advertising campaign in San Francisco, as well as additional efforts underway in San Diego, Santa Ana, and Pasadena.

The groups, however, do point out several significant “pitfalls” and threats to pedestrians everywhere in the state. One is the massive campaign to allow the new Segway scooters on sidewalks by defining the machines as pedestrians. Many safety advocates believe the scooters behave more like vehicles than pedestrians and thus belong in the street or at least in bike lanes. The company that manufactures the Segway scooters has succeeded in passing new laws in 20 states that define the scooters as pedestrians. The report also scolds California for pursuing policies that advocate the removal of crosswalks as well as general traffic engineering practices that restrict pedestrian crossings and movements and generally undercount and undervalue the benefits and necessities of walking.

Pedestrian advocates are also calling on the state legislature to pass Senate Bill 1555 (Torlakson) that would dedicate more than \$3.25 million per year in state funding to bicycle and pedestrian safety programs throughout California. That measure is currently being held by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and will be decided on by the time the legislature adjourns at the end of August.

UPDATES: HAWAII

Outstanding EMS Providers

What do Hawaii’s Outstanding MICT of the Year, Ian Santee of Honolulu City & County’s Metro One Unit, and the Outstanding EMT of the Year, Tito Villanueva of American Medical Response – Kauai, have in common? Both dedicated professionals, in addition to their work responsibilities, have taken the time to get involved in injury prevention efforts focused on keeping Hawaii’s keiki (children) safe.

Both awardees have experienced firsthand the benefits of their injury prevention efforts. Santee's EMS Explorers Program (an EMSC mini-grant winner) introduces teens to the core concepts of injury prevention and how they can be incorporated not only in the community-at-large, but into daily EMS responsibilities as well. He relates that as a paramedic, he has learned that education is key in preventing injuries. For Santee, preventing a problem is better than trying to correct it.

For Villanueva, his involvement in child passenger safety hits close to home. Because he has two small children of his own, the training he received also benefits his family. And on the job, the efforts he and his fellow technicians make are evident. When responding to motor vehicle crashes, Villanueva has witnessed time and again how the correct use of child car seat restraints results in children surviving a crash with only minor or no injuries at all.

To Ian Santee and Tito Villanueva, saving lives is all in a day's work. When it comes to protecting Hawaii's keiki, these dedicated EMS providers have pledged to make their communities safer and embrace the role they play in doing so. Congratulations, Ian and Tito, for going above and beyond, preventing one injury at a time, saving one life at a time. You are indeed OUTSTANDING!

Resource News

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii (KIPC) is a statewide, community-based organization comprised of broad-based representation from more than 130 organizations, agencies, and individuals committed to preventing injuries to Hawaii's children and youth. The KIPC Action Plan 2002, "Protecting Our Children: Strategies for Injury Prevention," is a roadmap to identify injury trends and prevent childhood injuries in Hawaii.

Copies of the Action Plan were distributed to all local EMS personnel to help guide them in their critical role towards the prevention of childhood injuries. The Action Plan provides the latest data and strategies for eight focus areas of injury prevention: Motor Vehicle Occupant Protection for Children and Youth; Drowning Prevention; Pedestrian, Bike, and Skating Safety; Youth Suicide Prevention; Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention; Youth Violence Prevention; and Playground and Sports Safety.

To promote a comprehensive approach for the prevention of injuries to children and youth, the Spectrum of Prevention* is used as a framework. The Spectrum defines the unique contributions that individuals, agencies, and community groups can make toward shaping a safe environment for children whether they are on the road, at home, or at play. Coalition members, the community, and EMS personnel can use the Action Plan as a way of:

- ? Assessing how their own efforts contribute to the prevention of injuries
- ? Identifying other prevention strategies in which they can participate
- ? Identifying others involved in efforts with whom they can partner
- ? Determining how these strategies are synergistic with broader health promotion efforts

By working together, coalition members, including agencies, EMS and other providers, and community members, can work on several levels of prevention at the same time and develop a multifaceted approach to addressing any injury prevention issue.

* Cohen L, Swift S. Spectrum of prevention: developing a comprehensive approach to injury prevention. *Injury Prevention*. 1999;5:203-207.

News from Around the Islands

Maui County

American Medical Response (AMR) — Maui's Curt Morimoto reports a four-day NHTSA training was held for a class of 19 Maui Fire Recruits, culminating in a car seat check-up on the fourth day. In addition, Curt reports that he completed his Instructor Candidate training with this recruit class and is now, in addition to being a CPS technician, a Certified CPS Instructor. Curt also helped out at four other car seat check-ups held in Maui County, with one being on Lanai. Upcoming check-ups are scheduled, in collaboration with Safe Community of Maui, Inc., through the end of the year. Safe Community also conducted a pedestrian safety workshop in August in response to growing concerns in the Lahaina area.

Hawaii County (the Big Island)

Scotty Paiva of the Hawaii County Fire Department's EMS Division reports that FEO/MICT Ralph Yamada's group of dedicated EMS personnel continued their efforts to bring CPR to the classroom. In addition to the 600 high schoolers that participated through March, 580 additional students rounded out the effort through the end of the school year. Scotty also reports that during the HCFD EMS Health and Safety Expo and Fun Run, held in conjunction with EMS Week 2002, EMS personnel were able to educate the public, as well as have some fun, at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel and Coconut Island.

Kauai County

Zach Octavio, AMR – Kauai Manager, reports that Medic 21 continues to average at least one car seat check-up per day and with the enforcement of the "Click It or Ticket" program, many parents, grandparents, and caregivers have been stopping by to ensure their children are properly restrained. AMR – Kauai's CPS team also conducted a roadside check with the Kauai Police Department (KPD) and inspected 31 car seats. Zach also reports on collaborative CPS efforts with Moana Ta'a, Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition Coordinator, in support of Safe Keiki Day in Lihue. AMR – Kauai personnel also participated in a bike safety clinic during the event. Tom VanderWende and George Mones, in partnership with KKIPC, KPD, KFD, and State Farm, participated in a bike rodeo at Hanalei School. With several clinics already in the planning stage, bike safety is yet another emphasis of AMR – Kauai.

City and County of Honolulu (Oahu)

The City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division made it official with the hiring of Jimmy Barros as their Injury Prevention Coordinator. Jimmy reports that during the summer, the Division conducted a Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day at Sandy Beach. The prevention-minded event, co-sponsored by the Hawaii Chapter of the Think First Foundation, the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, and the Pilots Club of Honolulu,

was developed to educate and raise awareness of the many dangers that may cause debilitating brain and spinal cord injuries to thousands of people every year. EMS and Ocean Safety personnel also conducted C-Spine extrication and immobilization demonstrations.

Thanks go out to AMR – Oahu’s Todd Bardoni, EMT, for working in collaboration with the Hawaii Medical Services Association, the Department of Health’s Injury Prevention and Control Program, the Hawaii Bicycling League, and HPD’s Bike Unit at two bike safety rallies. AMR, Hawaii Operations have been instrumental in providing help for these safety events for the past year.

Bioterrorism Preparedness

State Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (EMSIP) is collaborating with the Hawaii State Department of Health to plan, develop, and implement an EMS surveillance reporting system utilizing computerized ambulance dispatch data. EMSIP is also planning and developing a statewide EMS bioterrorism emergency preparedness and response plan.

The Hawaii EMSC program also publishes a quarterly injury prevention newsletter for local EMS professionals and other first responders. The newsletter highlights EMS injury prevention activities and other injury-related information. To download a PDF version of past issues of the “Community Injury Prevention Response,” visit www.state.hi.us/doh/resource/ems/index.html.

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

New Child Restraint System

On September 1, 2002, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) began requiring all new child safety seats to use the Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) child restraint system. The system was designed to work independently of a car’s seatbelt system, resulting in simpler installation and less misuse. According to NHTSA, the LATCH system could cut child safety seat misuse, currently estimated to be as high as 80 percent, in half. For the full press release, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Seatbelt Use Increases

Seatbelt use continues to increase, reaching its highest level since 1994, according to NHTSA. Data drawn from the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) show a 2 percentage-point increase in seat belt use since 2001, to 75 percent seatbelt use. The increase translates into an additional 6 million users; an estimated 500 lives per year will be saved as a result. Some of the strongest gains were in the states participating in the nationwide “Click It or Ticket” enforcement campaign. For the full press release, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Motor Vehicle Fatalities among Children Lowest in History

With the release of 2001 crash statistics, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that children deaths due to motor vehicle crashes reached an all-time low. The number of deaths for

children 0-15 dropped by 8.6 percent from 2000 to 2001, representing the lowest number of deaths recorded since the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) began tracking and analyzing crash statistics in 1975. For the full press release, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Childhood Pedestrian Injury Prevention Resource

National Strategies for Advancing Child Pedestrian Safety is now available from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Produced in partnership with NHTSA, the publication offers recommendations to encourage walking, promote pedestrian safety, and develop safer pedestrian environments. Free copies can be obtained by calling 770-488-1506 or online at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pedestrian/default.htm.

CDC Injury Prevention Conference

Sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Injury Center, "Safety in Numbers: Working Together from Research into Practice" will be held in Atlanta, GA April 28-29, 2003. The conference aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, policy makers, advocates, and public health professionals, among others, to strengthen injury and violence prevention research and practice. The deadline for abstract submission has been extended to September 19, 2002; for more information or to submit, visit www.cdc.gov/ncipc/conference/abstract.htm.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

16th Annual California Conference on Childhood Injury Prevention

Date: September 23-25, 2002

Location: Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, CA

For more information, contact:

San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health

6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 208

San Diego, CA 92120

E-mail: kmjones@projects.sdsu.edu

Web: www.cccip.org/conf02.htm

3rd Annual Childhood Injury Prevention Conference - Teens on the Road: Strategies for Injury Prevention

Date: September 26-27, 2002

Location: The Adams Mark San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX

For more information, contact:

South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

7703 Floyd Curl Drive - MC 7791

San Antonio, TX 78229-3900

Phone: 210-567-7826

E-mail: pricema@uthscsa.edu

Web: www.injuryconference.org

46th AAAM Annual Scientific Conference

Date: September 29-October 2, 2002
Location: Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, AZ
For more information, contact:
Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine
P.O. Box 4176
Barrington, IL 60011-4176
Phone: 847-844-3880
Fax: 847-844-3884
E-mail: aaam@carcrash.org
Web: www.carcrash.org

Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice: What Works in Child Injury Prevention

Date: October 10-12, 2002
Location: Sintra, Portugal
For more information, contact:
European Child Safety Alliance
Telephone: +31 20 511 4512
Fax: +31 20 511 4510
E-mail: ecosa@consafe.nl
Web: www.ecosa.org/csi/ecosa.nsf/news

Fifth Annual EMS for Children Conference

Date: November 7-8, 2002
Location: Bahia Resort Hotel, San Diego, CA
For more information, contact:
Robin Adams
EMS Authority
Phone: 916-322-4336
Web: www.emsa.ca.gov

APHA 130th Annual Meeting and Exposition: Putting the Public Back into Public Health

Date: November 9-13, 2002
Location: Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
For more information, contact:
American Public Health Association
1200 G St., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-3967
Fax: 514-289-9844
Web: www.apha.org/meetings/

Third EMS Vision Conference

Date: December 5-6, 2002
Location: Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel, San Francisco, CA
For more information, visit www.emsa.ca.gov

2nd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

Date: January 30-February 1, 2003

Location: Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA

For more information, contact:

Michele Kelso, Program Manager
Local Government Commission
1414 K Street, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-448-1198
E-mail: mkelso@lgc.org
Web: www.lgc.org

Mark Bernhard, Senior Conference Planner
The Pennsylvania State University
225 The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
University Park, PA 16802-7005
Phone: 814-863-5100
E-mail: ConferenceInfo1@outreach.psu.edu
Web: www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth